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LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Interim Report of the Medical Officer of Health for  
the Year Ending 31st. December, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Rural District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Rutherford and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to report a satisfactory year from a Health standpoint in spite of the strain imposed by war conditions. Good progress was made in the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign. Efforts to deal with cases of Scabies throughout the area were fairly successful, and our thanks are due to the body of Civil Defence Workers, who carry out this duty.

Whilst owing to pressure of other duties as a possible result of war conditions, it is not always/ to maintain pre-war standards, it can be said that all essentials are being dealt with.

The support of the Chairman and Members of the Council, and the working help of your Officials is gratefully acknowledged.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J.G. Walker.

Medical Officer of Health.



LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Interim Report of the Medical Officer of Health for  
the Year Ending December, 31st. 1942.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	44,400
Population (Census 1931)	16,413
Population (Mid-year 1939) Estimated	14,170
Number of Inhabited Houses.	3,928
Unreduced Rateable Value	£88,365
Reduced Rateable Value	£66,208
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£251
Live Births Total 236 Birth-Rate	16.6
Deaths Total 176 Death-Rate (Crude)	12.4
Comparable Death-Rate	13.6
Infant Mortality Rate	59.0
Tuberculosis Death-Rate	0.49
Pulmonary 0.35 Non-Pulmonary 0.14	
Zymotic Death-Rate	Nil.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live (Legitimate Births)	224	109	115	Birth-rate 16.6 per 1,000 estd. resident population.
(Illegitimate)	12	6	6	
Still (Legitimate Births)	11	6	5	Rate per 1,000 total births (Live and Still) = 48.3
(Illegitimate)	1	1	0	
Deaths	176	93	83	Crude Death-Rate = 12.4 Comparable Death-Rate 13.6 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. Nil.

Death-Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births.	59.
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	49.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	83.3
Deaths from Cancer (All Ages)	25
Deaths from Measles (All ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All Ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under two years)	Nil.
Estimated Population	14,170

There were no special causes of sickness during the year.

### CAUSES OF DEATH IN LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT 1942.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes.	93	83
1. Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	—	—
2. Measles.	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever.	—	—
4. Whooping Cough.	—	—
5. Diphtheria.	—	—
6. Influenza.	—	1
7. Encephalitis Lethargica.	—	—
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	4	1
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases.	—	2
11. Syphilis.	2	—
12. General Paralysis, Tabes Dorsalis.	—	—
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease.	13	12
14. Diabetes.	1	2
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage.	6	13
16. Heart Disease.	26	20
17. Aneurysm.	7	—
18. Other Circulatory Diseases.	—	—
19. Bronchitis.	8	6
20. Pneumonia (All forms)	3	—
21. Other Respiratory Diseases.	1	2
22. Diarrhoea, etc., (under two years)	—	—
23. Peptic Ulcer.	2	1
24. Appendicitis.	1	2
25. Cirrhosis of Liver.	—	—
26. Other Diseases of Liver etc.,	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases.	2	4
28. Nephritis.	2	3
29. Puerperal Sepsis.	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Causes.	—	—
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, & Malformations.	2	5
32. Senility.	—	—
33. Suicide.	2	—
34. Other Violence.	3	3
35. Other Defined Diseases.	—	—
36. Causes Ill-Defined or Unknown.	8	6
37. Diarrhoea (Two years and over)	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year:—		
Total.	4	10
Legitimate.	4	9
Illegitimate.	—	1
Live Births:—		
Total.	115	121
Legitimate.	109	115
Illegitimate.	6	6
Still Births:—		
Total.	7	5
Legitimate.	6	5
Illegitimate.	1	—
POPULATION RESIDENT.	14,170.	



## DEATHS FROM THE PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea (under two years), Smallpox, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever or Enteric during the year 1942. This gives a Nil Zymotic death-rate for the year, and is the second nil return in recent years for your district.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 14 deaths during the year of infants under one year of age, giving an infant mortality rate of 59.3; compared with 66 in the previous year.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

### (a) Medical Officer of Health:

John G. Walker, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Whole time Officer for the joint area of the Lanchester Rural and Consett Urban District Councils.

### (b) Sanitary Inspectors:-

G. Rowe, Cert., S.I.B., and Meat Inspector's Cert.,  
(Senior Inspector)

F.E. Terry, Cert., S.I.B., and Meat Inspector's Cert.,

50% of the above Officers' salaries are payable from County Funds.

Clerk - K. Robertshaw.

Medical Officers in connection with Schools, Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis, Food and Drugs Inspectors, Health Visitors etc., carry out various Public Health Activities in the District. These Officers are appointed and controlled by the County Council.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

General - There were 83 cases of infectious diseases excluding Tuberculosis notified in the area during 1942, which is much lower than the figure for the previous year which was 192.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Number of New Cases Notified during the 1942.

Totals on Register at 31/12/42

Pulmonary Males.	6.	37
Pulmonary Females	3	24
Non-Pulmonary Males	4	23
Non-Pulmonary Females	2	20

Deaths during 1942      Pulmonary 5  
                                 Non-Pulmonary 2

7

### NOTIFIABLE CASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) admitted to Hospital during the year 1942:-

	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	37	25	-
Diphtheria	10	9	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Measles	23	-	-
Whooping Cough.	9	-	-
Dysentery	1	1	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1	-
Primary Pneumonia	5	-	3
	88	37	3

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Considerable progress was made during the year, and 648 children under 15 received two doses of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. 283 under 5 years, 365 over 5 years. The percentage of children immunised in this District at the end of 1942 was 60%. Plans are in hand to speed up this work during 1943.

### SCABIES ORDER. 1941.

Considerable work was done in connection with the treatment of Scabies during the year. The services of the whole-time Women attached to the Civil Defence Services in the adjoining Consett Urban District have been used for this purpose with satisfactory results in most cases.

93 cases and 78 contacts were dealt with during the year, involving 36 visits.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table gives details of the work done under the various headings for the year:-

<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS etc.,</u>	<u>INFORMAL NOTICES.</u>	<u>FORMAL NOTICES.</u>	<u>NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICE.</u>
DWELLING HOUSES (Foul conditions)	2		2
(Structural Defects)	410		205
(Overcrowding)	2		1
DAIRIES & MILKSHOPS	6		4
COWSHEDS.	46		23
BAKEHOUSES	-		-
ASHPITS & PRIVIES.	12		8
DEPOSITSO F REFUSE & MANURE.	26		25
WATER CLOSETS.	17		10
HOUSE DRAINAGE FAULTS.	27		22
WATER SUPPLY.	12		8
ANIMALS IMPROPERLY KEPT.	8		8
OTHER NUISANCES.	31		27
TOTAL	607		343

### PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

HOUSES visited following I.D. -- disinfected and disinfectant supplied etc.	47
Lots of Infectious bedding stoved or destroyed.	--
Library books disinfected.	-
Schools disinfected.	-

### FACTORY ACT. 1937.

During the year, the scheme for providing 4 W.C's, 3 Shower Cubicles, lavatory Basins and a Mess Room, was commenced at the Smelt Mills, Castleside. A septic tank and filter were provided to deal with the drainage from these new installations.

In the area there are 28 Factories With Power, and 29 Factories Without Power, and 15 visits of inspection were made during the year.

### SHOPS ACT 1934.

No formal action was taken during the year, but by informal action, at premises in Front St, Langley Park, a water supply and lavatory basin was installed in a drapery establishment for the use of employees.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY:-

The supply from the Durham County Water Board has not given any cause for complaint as regards quality and quantity during the year.

Samples of 23 private supplies, including possible emergency sources were taken during the year, and of these 4 were found to be unsatisfactory, and 4 only moderate.

Improvements to individual spring supplies, in the matter of collection and storage, continues to be effected as the opportunity presents itself.

At Byerley House Farm, Satley, a new spring supply was located and a hydraulic ram installed to force the supply to storage for all the farm premises.

A fault in the pipe line conveying the spring supply to Lindisfarne Farm was rectified during the year.

The supply pipes to the public watering place at Prospect Satley, were cleaned out as a result of silting which was interfering with the flow.

The failure to find a water supply for Fellside Cottage, Burnhope, resulted in the Owners losing the isolated house and deciding to demolish it.

### DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE:-

No major works of drainage or sewerage was undertaken by the Council during the year.

The provision of suitable sewage collection and disposal by septic tank and filter for isolated properties, continues to be pursued as the opportunity arises, as this work generally enables water closets to be installed to replace the conservancy system of sanitation at such properties.

Such schemes were effected at West Shields Farm, Satley, Healeyfield Farm, Castleside, Biggen House, Malton, Moorcock Inn, Waskerley, the Pit Canteen, Langley Park, and the Smelt Mills, Castleside.

At Draver House Farm, Satley, the County War Agricultural Committee provided a sewage collection tank for the premises.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Due to additional W.C.'s provided by alterations and the substitution of an unsatisfactory slop closet by a W.C, the revised figures for sanitary accommodation for the area are as follows:-

Water Closets.	3230
Ash Closets.	696
Pail-Closets.	15
Privy Ashpits.	294
Privies.	83
Chemical Closets.	2
	<u>4320</u>

### PUBLIC CLOANSING.

With the exception of 50 isolated houses in the Parish of Muggleswick, the remainder of this work was carried out by 16 Contracts, involving 4,019 houses and other premises, at an average cost of 12/1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> per house.

Considerable trouble was initially met in getting the Contracts fixed due to the Contractor for Esh No. 1. District having to relinquish his contract through sheer inability to obtain a spare part for his vehicle, even after protracted applications and negotiations through the Ministry of Transport. The Contractor for Cornsay No 1. asked and had to be released due to man-power difficulties.

The difficulty of obtaining competitive tenders for this work was once again apparent and appears to get more difficult each year. This, no doubt, is due in no small measure to the fact that the districts are not geographically convenient or large enough in most cases to provide full-time, large scale employment for the Contractor together with man-power difficulties. Generally speaking, the work has been carried out satisfactorily, the number of complaints being small and mostly confined to intermittent single instances.



PL. Ctl.	Meat Inspection & Slaughter-Houses.	Meat Shops.	Housing.	Vermineous Premises.	Drainage.	Scavenging.	Refuse Tips.	Sanitary Accommodations.	Conversions.	I.D. & Disinfection.	Farms & Cow-sheds.	Milk Samples.	Milk Shops.	Offensive Trades.	Factories.	Workshops.	Bakehouses.	Water Supplies.	Vermin.	Other Matters.	TOTAL.
BURNHOPE. PEARTREE, HOLMSIDE.	2		23	4	1	9	7	18		5	4			2				5	3	18	96
CASLEIDE. ROWLEY. KNISLEY.	1		51		14	42	22	11		1	6	3		4	7			3		33	197
CORNHAY - QUEBEC HAMSTEELS, HEDLEYHILL J. HOPE.	3		81	15	15	39	6	1		7	23			6	5	3		9		34	238
ESH COLLIERIES.						21	2			-										1	24
LANCHESTER - MILTON. GREENCROFT. MILDEN LANE.	10		71	3	17	56	18	9		17	11	39	3	9		4		11	7	95	364
MUGGLESTON WASKERLEY.			30		1	24		1			6							5		4	71
LANGLEY PARK. ESH VILLAGE & HILL TOP.	28		47	3	8	34	22	7		15	4	3		13	3	6	5	6	2	84	277
SATLEY & BUTSFIELD.	1		12		2	1		2		2	23	7						5		14	68
	45	-	315	25	58	28	77	49	-	49	74	52	3	34	15	13	5	44	12	283	1335

## HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year, but at Malton Colliery alterations were made to one house to convert it into two self-contained flats, each with all domestic facilities.

At Spring Gardens Farm, Lanchester, the original house was uninhabitable on account of excessive incurable dampness. Hence it was converted into farm buildings and an adjacent building, previously erected as a colliery employees' waiting room, was converted into a house for the farm.

No2, The Grove, Satley, was re-conditioned during the year and the Order previously made against the property, was determined.

Pellside Cottage, Burnhope, was closed when vacated as it was impossible to obtain a water supply for the premises, the original source having been destroyed by mine workings.

There is a very definite need for housing to accommodate those living in property which would have been condemned ere now, and also to meet the need of those requiring a home of their own.

Evidence of a shortage of building labour and materials was being more keenly felt during the year in relation to housing repairs, and unless this position is more adequately catered for, then many minor items of repair will develop into major works with commensurate detrimental effect upon many houses.

The tabulated result of the work of repair is shown under "Sanitary Inspection of the Area".

## OVERCROWDING.

Like most other districts there has been a certain amount of overcrowding revealed, but such cases of actual overcrowding have not been so numerous as those where more than one family are living in the same house without causing overcrowding. These cases are the direct result of the interruption of normal family life, in a variety of ways, due to the international situation.

## MILK SUPPLY.

The following are the main facts relating to the milk supply in the area:-

Number of Registered Farms.	161.
Number of Registered Cowsheds.	200.
Number of Farms Registered during the year.	3.
Number of Farms Discontinued during the year.	11.
Number of Registered Producer/Wholesalers.	91.
Number of Registered Producer/Retailers.	36.
Number of Registered Producer/Wholesaler/Retailers.	15.
Number of Registered Butternakers.	17.
Number Registered but for own use only.	2.

## DESIGNATED MILK PRODUCTION:-

Number of Producers of T.T. Milk.	2.
Number of Producers of Accredited Milk.	47.

Number of Supplementary Licenses issued for Pasteurised Milk.	1.
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The shortage of building labour and materials, and the increased costs of building have restricted activities in the work of improvement to premises to conform to our standard for designated milk production.

This position is unfortunate because we were steadily adding to the list of improved premises and subsequently the list of Accredited Producers.

At Spring Gardens Farm, Lanchester, remodelled premises were completed, while at West Shields Farm, Satley, a new 19 stalled cowshed, with cooling and sterilising rooms, was erected to replace premises which were in most respects unsuitable for milk production.

Works of improvement to existing premises at Langley West House, Lanchester, as a stage in the programme for Accredited license.

At Low Mill, Lanchester, cooling and sterilising rooms were erected to complete the scheme for standard premises for Accredited milk production.

The provision of a sufficient and suitable water supply to Byerley House Farm Satley, enabled the premises to be registered for milk production.



An existing cowshed at Burnhope Flatts Farm, was re-modelled for the accomodation of additions to the dairy herd.

During the year two Producers were granted licenses by the County Council to produce Accredited milk, while four producers discontinued such production, leaving 49 Designated Milk producers on the roll at the end of the year. Thus approximately 30% of our producers are licensed to produce Designated milk.

52 test samples of milk were taken during the year from all classes of producers, and the results were not so unsatisfactory as 36 were equal to Accredited standard for cleanliness and 41 revealed a satisfactory Bacterial Count as regards keeping quality.

There is no doubt that the increased agricultural programme, allied to the man-power problem, has influenced the standard of milk production which results in a widely fluctuating standard of cleanliness.

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No routine slaughtering of animals is carried out in this area so that the work of inspection has been confined to cases of slaughter under emergency conditions, and foods which have deteriorated, often as the result of damaged containers.

The following table summarizes the work of inspection:-

COMMODITY.	Nos.	CAUSE.	WEIGHT
Carcase & Organs of a Goat.		Emaciation.	40lb
Carcase & Organs of a Calv.		Traumatism.	45lb
Bovine Liver.	1.	Putrefaction.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
Sausage meat.		-do-	26 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
Bacon.		Bone taint.	77 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
Cheese.		Moulds.	14oz
Eggs.		Putrefaction & Damage.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
Corned Beef.	11tins.	Blown & Damaged Containers.	66lb
Meat Roll	1tin.	-do-	1lb
Corned Mutton.	5tins.	-do-	30lb
Ox Tongue.	2tins.	-do-	12lb
Chopped Ham.	7tins.	-do-	16 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb
Prem.	13tins.	-do-	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
Luncheon Meat.	12tins.	-do-	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
Pork Sausage Meat	8tins.	-do-	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
Pilchards.	1tin.	-do-	1lb
Peas.	2tins.	-do-	2lb
Beans.	1tin.	-do-	1lb
Apples.	1tin.	-do-	6lb
Sliced Peaches.	1tin.	-do-	2lb
Skimmed Milk.	5tins.	-do-	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
Evaporated Milk.	2tins.	-do-	2lb

A case of illicit slaughter of a sheep on premises attached to the Lanchester Mart, was taken up by the Ministry of Food and proceedings against the offenders instituted. As a result the the defendants were each fined £20 and costs.



